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DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 31, 2021

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12207

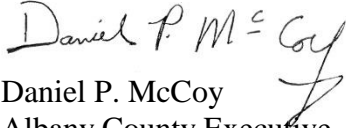
Dear Chairman Joyce:

On behalf of the Albany County Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and Assigned Counsel Program, I am requesting authorization to amend a contract with New York Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) for implementation of the Statewide Expansion of the Hurrell-Harring settlement. Since taking office I have been a strong advocate for reforms to the indigent legal services program and have pushed for Counties to receive additional funding from New York State. In 2017, NYS committed to expanding the Hurrell-Harring settlement to all counties in the state by providing \$250 million over five years to bring indigent defense services up to the standards set in the 2014 settlement. The key provisions of statewide expansion include ensuring defendants are represented by counsel at arraignments, establishing caseload standards for providers, and improving quality of representation via training, supervision, and access to experts.

To meet the standards established in Hurrell-Harring, Albany County will be receiving \$26,264,402.19, beginning with \$1,750,920.29 in 2019 and increasing on an annual basis. Funding is shared between the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and Assigned Counsel Program based on caseload data submitted by each provider. Albany County's third-year plan was recently approved by the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) and authorization is needed to amend our contract to reflect the finalized year three budget. Funding will support added personnel (attorneys, support staff, and experts), contractual expert services, onboarding expenses, training, mentoring, IT and software improvements, attorney resources, and other investments that help the County meet the standards discussed above. Reimbursement for all expenses included in the County's annual work plans will be provided on a quarterly basis. Statewide Expansion is 100 percent state funded, there is no County share.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely


Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

cc: Hon. Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel